KANSAS
MATERNAL &
CHILD HEALTH

ALCOHOL, SMOKING, AND SUBSTANCE INVOLVEMENT SCREENING TEST (ASSIST) ALGORITHM

Administration Directions:

1. Reference the "ASSIST" in the "Screening Tools" section of the toolkit for Q1-Q8.

2. Give patient the response card which outlines substances and responses

3. Explain confidentiality issues and any mandated reporting requirements, if not already done.

4. Administer screen through interview; Q2-Q7 should be asked for each substance indicated in Q1.

5. Track & calculate score. Scores indicated in parentheses below.

Scoring Abbreviation Key

Once or twice=O/T
Monthly=MO
Weekly=WK
Daily or almost daily=D

If at any point during this workflow the patient presents in crisis, please initiate procedures found on the crisis algorithm

Q1: **Lifetime use**

YES
(3)

Q2: **Use in the last 3 months**

NO

NO

YES
(O/T=2 MO=3 WK=4 D=6)

Q3/Q4/Q5: **Usage patterns in the last 3 months**

Q3: (O/T=3 MO=4 WK=5 D=6)
Q4: (O/T=4 MO=5 WK=6)
Q5: (O/T=5 MO=6 WK=7 D=8)

Q6/Q7: **Lifetime concern & attempts to cut down or quit**

(Never=0)
(Yes, not in past 3 MO=3)
(Yes, in the past 3 MO=6)

Q8: **Lifetime Use by Injection**

NO, never
(0)

YES, not in past 3 MO
(1)

YES, in past 3 MO
(2)

Ask about pattern to determine their risk level and the best course of intervention

>1/week **or** ≥ 3 days in a row
Further assessment and more intensive treatment indicated

≤ 1/week **or** <3 days in a row
Provide Brief Intervention including "risks associated with injecting" card

SCORE CALCULATIONS

The type of intervention is determined by the patient's specific substance involvement score.

Based on responses, add scores for Q1-Q8 for each substance indicated in Q1

LOWER Risk
Alcohol 0-10; Other Substances 0-3

At low risk of health and other problems related to current pattern of use.

Provide positive reinforcement and follow up at upcoming appointments.

MODERATE Risk
Alcohol 11-26; Other Substances 4-26

At moderate risk of health and other problems related to current pattern of substance use.

Provide Brief Intervention (see SBIRT algorithm) and follow up at upcoming appointments.

HIGH Risk
All substances 27+

At high risk of experiencing severe problems (health, social, financial, legal, relationship) as a result of current pattern of use.

Provide Brief Intervention (see SBIRT algorithm) and Referral to Treatment (see Navigating Referral Access Points workflow). Follow up with patient to make sure they accessed and received care.

*Please reference ASSIST Manual, linked in Reference Guide for Providers, for scoring exceptions.